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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Medical Information from Shumen

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REFERENCES

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1. The Vasil Kolarov Hospital on Kirili Metodiy Street is the only civilian hospital at Shumen (now Kolarovgrad). It consists of nine buildings, has 350 beds, and employs 180 people including between 50 and 60 doctors. The construction of a building for an additional pediatrics department with 60 to 80 beds has been completed, and the department is to begin operations September 1953.

2. The 2-story central building contains the following departments:

- a. Administration, internal diseases (60 beds);
- b. Skin diseases (30 beds); and
- c. Physiotherapy.

The hospital has the following sections:

- a. Surgery (45 beds);
- b. Contagious diseases (40 beds);
- c. Gynecology (45 to 50 beds);
- d. Lung diseases (60 beds);
- e. Pediatrics (20 beds); and
- f. Eye, ear, and nose diseases (20 beds).

3. Shumen has the largest military hospital in eastern Bulgaria, located at the end of Rakovska Street, not far from the former Turkish bathhouse. The hospital treats soldiers from the Burgas, Ruse and Sliven Okoliyas, although there are

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military hospitals in those districts. The hospital consists of three buildings and a clinic where officers and their families receive ambulatory treatment, and has the following specialist departments:

- a. Internal diseases;
 - b. Surgical;
 - c. Skin diseases;
 - d. Eye, ear, nose and throat diseases;
 - e. Dentistry; and
 - f. Physiotherapy.
4. Shumen also has a clinic for tuberculosis patients and a general clinic. The clinic for tuberculosis patients, with 20 beds, is to be enlarged to 40-bed capacity when funds are available. It employs eight physicians and is one of the few medical institutions in Bulgaria where lung surgery is performed.
5. Semi-officially, the proportion of tuberculosis patients in Bulgaria is given as two and one-half percent. This estimate is believed to be too low, partly because the poor educational level of a large section of the population makes it difficult to detect cases of the disease, and partly because the health authorities do not wish to admit the gravity of the situation. Since 1950, a large-scale effort has been made to bring all tuberculosis cases under supervision. The tuberculosis clinics and public health stations have administered Pirquet-Montaux tests to children up to 18 years of age, with a Calmette test for all those with a negative reaction to the first examination. In 1953, all persons up to 30 years of age could undergo the tests. Tuberculosis patients without means receive additional food and clothing without charge from special funds in each locality.
6. According to new regulations every physician must work for six hours a day in a government medical institution. Internal disease specialists spend two hours each at a hospital, clinic, and district health station in the city, and make visits to the homes of the patients.

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7. [redacted] medical personalities:

a. Nakov (fmu). Manager of the city hospital in Shumen

b. Garbis Panikiyan, Manager of the Okoliya Health Department in Shumen

c. Aleksandur Tsaukov. Manager of the Tuberculosis Clinic in Shumen

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